

Applicants reiterate that claims 157, 158 and **164**-208 are pending in the present application. The Office Action Summary sheet indicates that only claims 157, 158 and 165-189 are pending. However, it does appear that claim 164 was considered because there are rejections directed to claim 164. In sum, claims 157, 158 and 164-208 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Hashimoto)

Claim 157 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,653,647 to Hashimoto (“Hashimoto”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hashimoto discloses a currency bill sorting and stacking apparatus that operates according to one of seven modes of operation (modes a-g). *See* Hashimoto at col. 5, ll. 4-11. These modes of operation include pre-defined parameters specifying into which of the first, second and third pockets a currency bill is directed. For example, pursuant to a “Two Denominations (e)” mode, bills of a first specified denomination are directed to a first pocket (5), bills of a second specified denomination are directed to a second pocket (6) and bills of unspecified denominations as well as bills whose denomination is unidentifiable are directed to a third pocket (8). *Id.* at col. 5, ll. 42-47. The modes of operation (a)-(g) of the Hashimoto currency bill sorting and stacking apparatus are “factory-defined” modes of operation meaning that they are pre-defined modes of operation stored in a memory of the device. Factory-defined modes are distinguishable from user-defined modes, which enable the user to define a mode of operation that the device will operate pursuant to.

The Hashimoto device is not capable of receiving information from a user specifying how error conditions are to be handled. Rather, the user of the Hashimoto device can select from seven different modes of operation (modes a-g). As is summarized in the Table (bottom of cols. 3-4) of Hashimoto, six of the seven Hashimoto modes (modes a-f) of operation off-sort bills triggering error conditions to a reject pocket (the third pocket 7) and the device continues operating. The seventh Hashimoto mode (mode g) off-sorts bills triggering error conditions to the third pocket and obverse-presented damaged notes of a specified denomination to the second pocket and the device continues operating. A user of the Hashimoto device is only permitted to select a factory-defined mode of operation which specifies the criteria for evaluating currency bills. For example, a user of the Hashimoto

device selecting an operational mode (g) is instructing the device to identify the denomination, orientation (*i.e.*, obverse or reverse) and to determine whether the note is damaged. However, the Hashimoto device is not capable of receiving input from an operator specifying how to handle error conditions for any of its seven modes of operation. Put another way, in the above example, the Hashimoto device does not permit the user selecting operational mode (g) to specify how bills triggering error conditions are handled; pursuant to operational mode (g), bills whose denomination cannot be identified are always off-sorted to the third pocket and obverse-presented damaged notes of the specified denomination are always off-sorted to the second pocket. In sum, Hashimoto does not disclose an interface adapted to permit a user to specify how the error conditions are to be handled.

Claim 157 is directed to a currency evaluation device that includes, *inter alia*, “an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to specify how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled” and “a memory adapted to store user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled, the information being capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device.” In sum, the currency evaluation device of claim 157 is capable of handling bills triggering error conditions as specified by a user and storing those specifications in a memory of the device (which would obviate the need for the user of the device to re-specify how error conditions are to be handled each time the user desires the machine to operate pursuant in that manner). Examples of such a device are discussed in connection with FIGS. 38-40 beginning at page 71, line 1 of Applicants’ specification.

Hashimoto does not disclose a device capable of receiving input specifying how to handle error conditions and storing that input in a manner capable of subsequent recall and selection. Hashimoto does not disclose that a user can define the manner in which error conditions are handled; rather, the user of Hashimoto’s currency bill sorting and stacking apparatus is limited to seven pre-defined mode of operation (a)-(g). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 157 is patentable over Hashimoto under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for at least this reason.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over Hashimoto. Hashimoto does not disclose a device that permits the user to specify how a plurality of error conditions are handled or a device that stores in memory user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled. Thus, Applicants

respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over Hashimoto under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Hashimoto, Cargill)

Claims 164-189 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,430,664 to Cargill et al. (“Cargill”).

Cargill discloses a single-pocket document counting and batching apparatus that evaluates currency bills and is adapted to detect the presence of error conditions including “counterfeit suspect,” “double” and “chain” errors. *See* Cargill at col. 22, ll. 1-13 (Table IV). Error conditions are handled by the Cargill device by halting the motor so that the bill triggering the error condition and the subsequent bill (if any) are delivered to the single pocket. *Id.* at col. 19, ll. 15-25. The operator of the Cargill device then removes the two bills from the single pocket, inspects the counterfeit bill and returns the bill subsequent the error triggering bill (if any) back to the hopper for evaluation. *Id.*

Cargill does not disclose handling error conditions in any other manner than halting the operation of the motor and delivering the bill triggering the error condition and the subsequent bill to the single pocket. Nor does Cargill disclose permitting a user of the Cargill device to specify how the occurrence of error conditions are to be handled. Likewise, as discussed above, Hashimoto does not disclose a device capable of receiving input from a user specifying how to handle the occurrence of error conditions.

Applicants’ claims 164-189 are directed to apparatuses and methods that permit the handling of bills triggering error conditions occurring during the evaluation of currency bills as specified by a user or in a user-defined manner: “an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to specify how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled” and “a memory adapted to store user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled, the information being capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device” (claim 157); “the memory being designed to store at least one user-defined mode of operation, . . . capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device” and “an interface adapted to permit a user . . . to define the user-defined mode of operation” (claim 158); “an interface adapted to permit a user to select one of the options of the mixed mode of operation . . . the device being adapted to store a selected option in the memory of the device along with the mixed mode of operation as a user-defined mode of operation in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user” (claim 174);

“selecting one of the options of the mixed mode of operation via the user interface” and “storing the selected option in the memory of the device along with the mixed mode of operation as a user-defined mode of operation in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user” (claim 177); “the memory being adapted to store at least one user-defined mode of operation” and “an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to define the user-defined mode of operation” (claim 181); “defining at least one user-defined mode . . . specifying to which of the plurality of output receptacles a bill meeting or failing to meet one or more criteria is to be transported” and “storing the user-defined mode of operation in the memory” (claim 182); “an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to define at least one user-defined mode of operation specifying how to operate including how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions, the user-defined mode of operation user being stored in the memory” (claim 184); and “defining at least one user-defined mode of operation specifying how to operate including how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions” and “storing the user-defined mode of operation in a memory” (claim 188).

The office action alleges it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these references to use the “control particulars” of Cargill in the bill sorting device of Hashimoto and that the motivation for doing so would have been “to provide digital control networking capability to ‘coordinate operations of counting and verifying documents.’” Applicants respectfully traverse this allegation. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in these references, alone or in combination, to permit a user to specify how error conditions are to be handled. Both Cargill and Hashimoto teach that the error conditions are handled in a pre-determined (*i.e.*, factory-defined) manner: Cargill discloses halting the motor and delivering the bill triggering the error condition and the subsequent bill to the single pocket; Hashimoto teaches off-sorting a bill triggering an error condition. The “control particulars” of Cargill cited by the office action as the motivation for combining Cargill with Hashimoto are directed to a digital control network for coordinating the operations of counting and verifying documents. The “control particulars” do not allow for operator input specifying how error conditions are to be handled. Rather, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination proposed by the office actions is an improper use of hindsight. *See, e.g., W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Furthermore, even if there was some teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine these references, a device or method that permits a user to specify how bills triggering error conditions are to be handled and that stores those specifications in a memory of the device is not disclosed by Hashimoto, Cargill nor a combination thereof. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submits that claims 164-189 are patentable over Hashimoto in view of Cargill under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this reason.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over the combination of Hashimoto and Cargill. The cited combination does not disclose a device that permits the user to specify how a plurality of error conditions are handled or a device that stores in memory user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over Hashimoto in view of Cargill under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Omatu, Molbak)

Claims 157, 158 and 164-189 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,729,623 to Omatu et al. (“Omatu”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,564,546 to Molbak et al. (“Molbak”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Omatu is primarily directed to a bill-recognition apparatus having a learning capability and is able to identify currency bills using pattern recognition. Regarding the handling of error conditions, Omatu only mentions that bills that cannot be identified are routed to a reject stacker 106. *See* Omatu at col. 16, ll. 58-61. Omatu does not disclose that occurrences of error conditions can be handled as specified by a user or in a user-defined manner or that the user specifications or user-defined manner can be stored in a memory. Rather, a user of the Omatu device is limited to pre-defined or factory-defined “rejection modes” (“a rejection setting button for setting the rejection mode such as that bills whose types are different from the type of the bill recognized first after the start/stop button 122 has been processed will be rejected”) for specifying criteria for rejecting bills – not for specifying how to handle bills failing to meet that criteria. *Id.* at col. 8, ll. 7-10. Omatu only discloses that rejected bills are directed to the reject stacker 106. *Id.* at col. 8, l. 25 and col. 16, ll. 58-61.

Molbak discloses a coin counting machine that issues a redeemable voucher for an amount related to the amount of deposited coins. Molbak does not disclose the processing of currency bills. Citing FIGS. 2, 4 and 5 of Molbak, the office action alleges that Molbak

discloses “particulars of operator interface and allowing error detection and operator control (operator intervention).” These figures of Molbak disclose nothing in the way of operator intervention with respect to error conditions. The only “operator intervention” disclosed by Molbak is in the form of input regarding whether to accept the determined amount of deposited coins, whether to reject the amount so that the coins are returned to the user or whether to donate the processed coins to charity.

Applicants respectfully submit that the system of Molbak relates to the processing of bulk coins and dispensing a redeemable voucher and is non-analogous art and may not be properly combined with Omatu in rejecting Applicants’ claims 157, 158 and 164-189. First, Molbak relates to coin processing, whereas Applicants’ claims are directed to the processing of currency bills. Second, the user input received in Molbak is regarding whether to accept or reject a transaction where, for example, the user disagrees with the determined amount of processed coins or where the user desires to donate the processed coins to charity. This “operator intervention” disclosed by Molbak (*e.g.*, rejecting the determined amount, donating coins to charity) is fundamentally different than user-input specifying how the occurrences of error conditions are to be handled. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Molbak is non-analogous art and that the rejection of Applicants’ claims based on Molbak is improper.

The office action alleges that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used the operator intervention particulars of Molbak et al in the bill sorting and stacking apparatus of Omatu et al.” Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation for the proposed combination of Omatu and Molbak found within the references themselves or within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made. The office action alleges that the motivation for combining Omatu and Molbak would be “to provide user control over the sorting process.” The entire disclosure of Molbak is directed to a coin counting/sorting machine, not currency bill processing. Further, any user control disclosed by Molbak is unrelated to the sorting of coins but is directed to where to apply the proceeds resulting from the coin sorting process. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would be unmotivated to combine Molbak and Omatu because Molbak is non-analogous art.

Even if Molbak was analogous art or if a motivation for combining Molbak and Omatu did exist, the proposed combination does not disclose, teach or suggest Applicants’ claims 157, 158 and 164-189. As discussed above, these claims are directed to apparatuses and methods that permit the handling of bills triggering error conditions occurring during the

evaluation of currency bills a user-specified fashion or a in a user-defined manner. A device or method that permits a user to specify how bills triggering error conditions are to be handled and to store that information as a user-defined mode of operation in a memory of the device is not disclosed by Omatu, Molbak, nor a combination thereof. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 157, 158 and 164-189 are patentable over Omatu in view of Molbak under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this reason.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over the combination of Omatu and Molbak. The cited combination does not disclose a device that permits the user to specify how a plurality of error conditions are handled or a device that stores in memory user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 190-208 are patentable over Omatu in view of Molbak under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least this reason.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 157, 158 and 164-189 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-56 of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,819 B1 to Stromme et al.

The present application is continued from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08,864,423, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,311,819 B1. Thus, Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,311,819 B1 herewith to obviate this obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, that all rejections have been overcome and that all claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Jenkins & Gilchrist Deposit Account No. 10-0447 (Order No. 47171-00272USC1) in the amount of \$426.00, presently due in connection with this Amendment And Reply. If, however, there are additional fees due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required (except

payment of the issue fee) to JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447(47171-00272USC1).

Respectfully submitted,



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**PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF AMENDMENT
AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 17, 2002**

157. (Twice Amended) A currency evaluation device comprising:

a discriminating unit adapted to evaluate currency bills, the discriminating unit including a detector, the discriminating unit adapted to determine the denomination of said bills and to detect the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to specify how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled; and

a memory adapted to store user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled, the information being capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device.

158. (Twice Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles adapted to receive bills after evaluation;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the plurality of output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to evaluate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the discriminating unit adapted to determine the denomination of the bills and to detect the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

a memory adapted to store information associated with a plurality of modes of operation of the device, the memory being designed to store at least one user-defined mode of operation, the user-defined mode of operation being capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device;

an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to define the user-defined mode of operation, the interface receiving information from the user specifying how the device is to operate including how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled, the information being stored in the memory; and

a mode selection element permitting the user to select one of the modes of operation.

164. The evaluation device of claim 157 further comprising a transport mechanism adapted to transport the currency bills from an input receptacle, one at a time, past the detector, to the plurality of output receptacles, wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular one of a plurality of error conditions is stopped before being delivered into one of the plurality of output receptacle such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism.

165. The evaluation device of 157 further comprising a transport mechanism adapted to transport the currency bills from an input receptacle, one at a time, past the detector, to the plurality of output receptacles, wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of a particular one of the plurality of error conditions (1) the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended or (2) a bill triggering the particular error condition should be off-sorted to one of the plurality of output receptacles without suspending operation of the evaluation device.

166. The evaluation device of claim 165 wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is presented in one of the plurality of output receptacles.

167. The evaluation device of claim 165 wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of the particular error condition the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the bill is located within a transport mechanism of the evaluation device.

168. (Amended) The evaluation device of claim 157 further comprising a transport mechanism adapted to transport the currency bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past the detector to the plurality of output receptacles, wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of a particular one of the plurality of error conditions the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so

that a bill triggering the particular error condition is stopped (1) before being delivered into an output receptacle such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism or (2) after being delivered into an output receptacle such that the bill is presented in the at least one output receptacle.

169. The evaluation device of claim 158 wherein the interface is adapted to receive information from the user further specifying that the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering one of a plurality of error conditions is stopped before being delivered into the at least one output receptacle such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism.

170. The evaluation device of 158 wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles, and wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of a particular one of the plurality of error conditions (1) the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended or (2) a bill triggering the particular error condition should be off-sorted to an output receptacle without suspending operation of the evaluation device.

171. The evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the interface is adapted to permit a user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of the particular error condition the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is presented in one of the plurality of output receptacles.

172. The evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of the particular error condition the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is stopped before being delivered to the plurality of output receptacles such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism.

173. The evaluation device of claim 158 wherein the interface is adapted to permit the user to input information further specifying that upon the occurrence of a particular one of the plurality of error conditions whether the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is stopped (1) before being

delivered to the at least one output receptacle such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism or (2) after being delivered into the at least one output receptacle such that the bill is presented in the at least one output receptacle such that the bill is presented in the at least one output receptacle.

174. A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device having a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation stored in a memory of the device, each of the plurality of pre-defined modes instructing the device how to operate, the plurality of pre-defined modes of operation including a mixed mode of operation, the mixed mode of operation being adapted to instruct the device to determine the aggregate value of a stack of bills having two or more denominations of bills, the mixed mode of operation including one or more options specifying how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions, the device comprising:

- an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- a plurality of output receptacles each adapted to receive bills after evaluation;
- a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle along a transport path to the plurality of output receptacles;
- an evaluation unit disposed along the transport path, the evaluation unit adapted to determine information concerning each of the bills including the denomination of each of the bills, the evaluation unit being adapted to detect one or more error conditions;
- an interface adapted to permit a user to select one of the options of the mixed mode of operation, the plurality of options including designating that a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be (1) presented in a first one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended, (2) presented in a second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended, or (3) off-sorted into the second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the transport mechanism continues operation, the device being adapted to store a selected option in the memory of the device along with the mixed mode of operation as a user-defined mode of operation in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user; and
- a mode selection element permitting the user to select a mode of operation selected from the group comprising the user-defined mode and the plurality of pre-defined modes including the mixed mode, wherein selection of the user-defined mode automatically recalls the selected option from memory.

175. The device of claim 174 wherein the particular error condition is a no call error condition.

176. The device of claim 174 wherein the particular error condition is a suspect document error condition.

177. A method of evaluating currency bills with a currency evaluation device, the device including a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past an evaluation unit to a plurality of output receptacles, the evaluation unit being adapted to determine the denomination of each of the currency bills and to detect one or more error conditions, the device having a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation stored in a memory of the device, each of the plurality of pre-defined modes of operation instructing the device how to operate, the plurality of modes of operation including a mixed mode of operation, the mixed mode of operation being adapted to instruct the device to determine the aggregate value of a stack of bills having two or more denominations of bills, the mixed mode of operation including one or more options specifying how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions, the method comprising:

selecting the mixed mode of operation, via a user interface, from the plurality of modes of operation;

selecting one of the options of the mixed mode of operation via the user interface, the one or more options including designating that a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be (1) presented in a first one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended, (2) presented in a second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended, or (3) off-sorted into the second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the transport mechanism continues operation;

storing the selected option in the memory of the device along with the mixed mode of operation as a user-defined mode of operation in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user; and

selecting a mode of operation selected from the group comprising the plurality of pre-defined modes including the mixed mode and the user-defined mode, wherein selection of the user-defined mode automatically recalls the selected option from memory.

178. (Amended) The method of claim 177 wherein the particular error condition is a no call error condition.

179. (Amended) The method of claim 177 wherein the particular error condition is a suspect document error condition.

180. (Amended) The method of 177 wherein selecting one of the options of the mixed mode of operation further includes selecting one of the options of the mixed mode of operation specifying how to handle a stacker full condition, the options including (1) suspending operation of the device, or (2) directing bills to a non-full one of the plurality of output receptacles.

181. A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

- an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

- a plurality of output receptacles adapted to receive bills after evaluation;

- a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle along a transport path to the plurality of output receptacles;

- an evaluation unit adapted to determine information concerning each of the bills including the denomination of each of the bills, the evaluation unit including a sensor positioned along the transport path, the evaluation unit being adapted to detect one or more error conditions;

- a nonvolatile memory adapted to store information associated with a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation of the device, the memory being adapted to store at least one user-defined mode of operation in a manner such that the at least one user-defined mode of operation is capable of subsequent recall and selection by a user of the evaluation device;

- an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to define the user-defined mode of operation, the interface being adapted to receive information from the user specifying criteria for evaluating the bills and specifying to which of output receptacles a bill meeting or failing to meet one or more criteria is to be transported, the information being stored in the nonvolatile memory as a user-defined mode of operation; and

a mode selection element adapted to permit the user to select a mode of operation selected from the group consisting of the plurality of pre-defined mode of operation and the at least one user defined mode of operation.

182. A method of evaluating currency bills with a currency evaluation device, the device including a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past an evaluation unit to a plurality of output receptacles, the evaluation unit being adapted to determine the denomination of each of the currency bills and to detect one or more error conditions, the device having a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation stored in a memory of the device, each of the plurality of modes of operation instructing the device how to operate, the method comprising:

- defining at least one user-defined mode of operation including specifying criteria for evaluating the bills and specifying to which of the plurality of output receptacles a bill meeting or failing to meet one or more criteria is to be transported;

- storing the user-defined mode of operation in the memory of the device in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection of the user-defined mode of operation by the user of the evaluation device;

- permitting a user to select the user-defined mode of operation stored in the memory of the device; and

- transporting bills meeting one or more criteria to one of the plurality of output receptacle according to the user-defined mode of operation; and

- transporting bills failing to meet one or more criteria to one of the plurality of output receptacle according to the user-defined mode of operation.

183. The method of claim 182 further comprising:

- subsequently selecting the user-defined mode of operation;

- recalling from the memory the user-defined mode of operation;

- transporting bills meeting one or more criteria to one of the plurality of output receptacle according to the user-defined mode of operation; and

- transporting bills failing to meet one or more criteria to one of the plurality of output receptacle according to the user-defined mode of operation.

184. A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device having a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation stored in a memory of the device, each of the plurality of pre-defined modes of operation instructing the device how to operate, the device comprising:

- an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- a plurality of output receptacle adapted to receive bills after evaluation;
- a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle along a transport path to the at least one output receptacle;
- an evaluation unit disposed along the transport path, the evaluation unit adapted to determine information concerning each of the bills including the denomination of each of the bills, the evaluation unit being adapted to detect one or more error conditions;
- an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to define at least one user-defined mode of operation specifying how to operate including how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions, the user-defined mode of operation user being stored in the memory of the device in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user; and
- a mode selection element permitting the user to select a mode of operation selected from the group comprising the plurality of pre-defined modes of operation and the a least one user-define mode of operation.

185. The currency evaluation device of claim 184 wherein the interface is adapted to permit a user to define a user-defined mode of operation specifying that a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be presented in a first one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended.

186. The currency evaluation device of claim 184 wherein the interface is adapted to permit a user to define a user-defined mode of operation specifying that a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be presented in a second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the operation of the transport mechanism is suspended.

187. The currency evaluation device of claim 184 wherein the interface is adapted to permit a user to define a user-defined mode of operation specifying that a bill triggering a particular

error condition is to be off-sorted into the second one of the plurality of output receptacles such that the transport mechanism continues operation.

188. A method of evaluating currency bills with a currency evaluation device, the device including a transport mechanism adapted to transport bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle past an evaluation unit to a plurality of output receptacles, the evaluation unit being adapted to determine the denomination of each of the currency bills and to detect one or more error conditions, the device having a plurality of pre-defined modes of operation, each of the plurality of pre-defined modes of operation instructing the device how to operate, the method comprising:

- defining at least one user-defined mode of operation specifying how to operate including how to handle the occurrence of one or more error conditions;

- storing the user-defined mode of operation in a memory of the device in a manner to permit subsequent recall and selection by a user of the device;

- permitting a user to select the user-defined mode of operation stored in the memory of the device; and

- handling the occurrence of one or more error conditions according to the user-defined mode of operation when the user-defined mode of operation has been selected.

189. The method of claim 188 further comprising:

- subsequently selecting the user-defined mode of operation;

- recalling from the memory the user-defined mode of operation; and

- handling the occurrence of one or more error conditions according to the user-defined mode of operation.

190. (New) A currency evaluation device comprising:

- a discriminating unit for evaluating currency bills, the discriminating unit including a detector, the discriminating unit adapted to determine the denomination of the bills and to detect the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

- an interface adapted to permit a user of the evaluation device to specify how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled; and

- a memory adapted to store user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled.

191. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 further comprising a plurality of output receptacles for receiving bills after the bills have been evaluated, the interface permitting the user to specify, for each of the error conditions, to which output receptacle or receptacles a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be directed.

192. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the interface permits the user to specify, for each of the error conditions, whether the evaluation device should suspend operation.

193. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the plurality of error conditions comprise a no call error condition.

194. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the plurality of error conditions comprise a stranger error condition.

195. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the plurality of error conditions comprise a suspect error condition.

196. (New) The currency evaluation device of claims 190 further comprising a plurality of output receptacles for receiving bills after the bills have been evaluated, the interface permitting the user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of the output receptacles such that the bill is located within a transport mechanism of the evaluation device.

197. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 196 wherein user information specifies that the bill is to be stopped at a predetermined position within a transport mechanism of the evaluation device.

198. (New) The currency evaluation device of claims 190 further comprising a plurality of output receptacles for receiving bills after the bills have been evaluated, the interface permitting the user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition the

operation of the evaluation device is to be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped after being delivered into one of the output receptacles.

199. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the interface permits the user the option of specifying that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition (1) the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended or (2) a bill triggering the particular error condition should be off-sorted to an output receptacle of the evaluation device without suspending the operation of the evaluation device.

200. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the interface permits the user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering the particular error condition is presented in an output receptacle of the evaluation device.

201. (New) The currency evaluation device of according claim 190 further comprising a plurality of output receptacles for receiving bills after the bills have been evaluated, the interface permitting the user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition whether the operation of the evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped (1) before being delivered into one of the output receptacles such that the bill is located within the transport mechanism or (2) after being delivered into one of the output receptacles such that the bill is the last bill delivered into the one output receptacle.

202. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the plurality of error conditions comprise a denomination change error condition.

203. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the plurality of error conditions comprise a separate series error condition.

204. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 further comprising exactly two output receptacles for receiving bills after the bills have been evaluated

205. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the user is permitted to define the name for the stored user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled.

206. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the memory in which the user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled is stored is a nonvolatile memory.

207. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled stored in memory may be repeatedly recalled including being recallable after power to the currency evaluation device has been switched off and on and being recallable on days subsequent to the day that the user information is originally stored in the memory.

208. (New) The currency evaluation device of claim 190 wherein the user information specifying how the plurality of error conditions are to be handled is stored in memory such that the user information may be repeatedly recalled including being recallable after the device is operated in another mode of operation.